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Generally, it seems that fewer and fewer people these days view scholarships as something other than what they are intended to be – an option of last resort. In my view, this is the result of a broader societal sense of entitlement that has pervaded our American culture (entitlement spending per capita has increased by 59% from 2012 to 2022). Increasingly, families believe it is the obligation of the yeshivas to provide supplemental assistance to help defray their largest expenses so they can enjoy a standard of living that they believe they are entitled to.

My message to our community, and specifically to all those out there that benefitted from yeshiva scholarships who, baruch Hashem, find themselves in a measurably better financial situation as their tuition bills decline (or disappear) is very simple. Enjoy what you have worked hard for; I know you have gotten through some hard times and the easing of financial stresses can feel like the weight of the world has been lifted off your shoulders. However, please remember who was there for you when you needed help. Before taking that expensive trip, before leasing that new luxury car, and before going away to that Pesach program, please understand that paying it back (actually paying it forward) should really be top of mind.

Sincerely,
Seeking More Hakaras Hatov

Dear Editor,

To the astonishment of many, there is now a sign located at the entrance to Tel Aviv saying, “Shema Yisroel Hashem Elokeinu Hashem Echad.”

But then again, when you hear certain stories, hopes for a new world are possible. In one, a chareidi family extended an invitation to a few chilonim on the Shabbos of the October 7th massacre which saved them.

Rabbi Motti Neuberger of the White Shul wonderfully points out that Moshe had the redemptive quality of being *nosei b’ol im chaveiro*, feeling the burden of his friend. His first act upon emerging from

the palace was eliminating someone who was torturing his “brother,” a Jew.

The word *ratzon*, will, spelled backwards is *notzar*, create. If we have the will to relate to the troubles of our brethren with action steps and present our will and need of salvation to G-d, a new world is possible.

Steven Genack

Dear Editor,

We often say that mental health is important equally as physical health. When attempting to break the stigma of seeking a professional to help us heal and manage the mental, emotional and traumatic obstacles we encounter, we compare it to seeing a professional for one’s physical health.

Cancer is commonly used as an example because it’s a very scary and painful illness that comes with a lot of baggage. When one is suffering from cancer, they are usually on chemotherapy. Chemotherapy is accepted and not looked down upon. Cancer victims aren’t judged for what they’re experiencing and are given time to gain strength back after the chemo treatment. For many, it feels that as soon as they feel a little better they have to go through their next painful chemo treatment.

The same way we compare physical and mental health equally, we need to see the healing process equally as well.

The same way we understand and have compassion for chemo patients that they are just trying to survive to be able to have enough strength for the next treatment, we should be accepting what comes with emotional therapy.

Emotional therapy can be scary and painful and can leave the client with a need for a lot of understanding and compassion as well. They also need to be supported and recognized as one living in survival mode. Those struggling with mental health need to be allowed to feel what they’re really feeling and need the space.

Crying for Justice

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